(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides funds for afforestation programmes within degraded forests and lands adjoining forest areas.

Processing infrastructure for agro products

5444. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major part of agro-products go waste due to non-availability of sufficient storage and processing infrastructures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to provide infrastructure facilities for fruits and vegetable growers;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANA YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the Report of Sub Group on Post harvest Management, Marketing and Export of the working group of Planning Commission on Horticulture for 10th Plan, the wastage of fruits and vegetables is ranging from 8%—37% at various stages of handling after harvesting, due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure including transport and storage.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme, namely, 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/ Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body of this Department. Under the scheme financial assistance in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North-Eastern States. The NHB has provided subsidy of Rs. 181.11 crores for creation of additional storage capacity of 24.12 lakhs MT for 521 cold storages during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. Besides a total of 224 Onion Storages, as on 31.3.2002, have been created with the assistance of NABARD, NCDC, NHRDF, and NAFED under their various schemes including the subsidy scheme of NHB.

(d) and (e) The Scheme is demand bases and the project proposal has to come from the eligible organisations and as such, there is no time bound programme for implementation of the scheme.

Human development level

†5445. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the human development level of the people in some States of the country has been found to be pitiable;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether Government have decided to bring them at par with other States by implementing special scheme; and

(d) if so, the fact in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The National Human Development Report, 2001, has brought out wide disparities among States in the level of human development due to their attainment levels in the areas of economic progress, education and health. It has also been found over a period of the time that States which have lagged behind in comparision to economically better off States have registered significant progress in terms of peace of development. As development is a continuous process, constant efforts have been made from time to time in consultation with States Governments with a view to further reduce the existing disparities.

Grants to madarsas

5446. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were planning to modernise madarsas in a bid to bring them into the natior.al mainstream;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.